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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 72% Light rain Sensex 81,151 | Nifty 24,781 | Gold 78,350 | Silver 98,365 | Dollar 84.07 | Euro 91.24 | GBP 109.50

PRECIOUS BEAN

Decline in coffee production due to climatic changes likely to pinch pockets of those who love a cuppa

PAGE 2

LUNG SPACE

Plan afoot to clear Nilgiri plantation at 153-acre land parcel in Yelahanka to make way for mega park

PAGE 4

Who gave permission for this digging, ask Halasuru residents after portion of Gangadhara Chetty Road that was white-topped a few years ago has been cut open to fix pipeline issue

SPLIT WIDE OPEN

It is alleged that flat owners at nearby apartment complex hired contractors to dig road

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Gangadhara Chetty Road is one of the important roads in the Central Business District (CBD) area in the city. The 1.18-km road was white topped a few years ago by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The purpose of white topping the road we have been told is to get rid of potholes and craters and ensure commuting remains easy for 20 years to 25 years.

However, pedestrians and motorists are up in arms as a portion of the road has been dug up without any precaution or permission. They said that neither the BBMP authorities nor Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers visited the road to stop the work that was allegedly carried out without permission.

"The digging of the road that was white topped by spending crores of rupees has been happening for more than 20 days. It is alleged that the flat owners of a nearby residential apartment complex have engaged a contractor to fix the sanitary problem. BBMP authorities and BWSSB engineers are usually in a terrible hurry to penalise or punish the common public for digging

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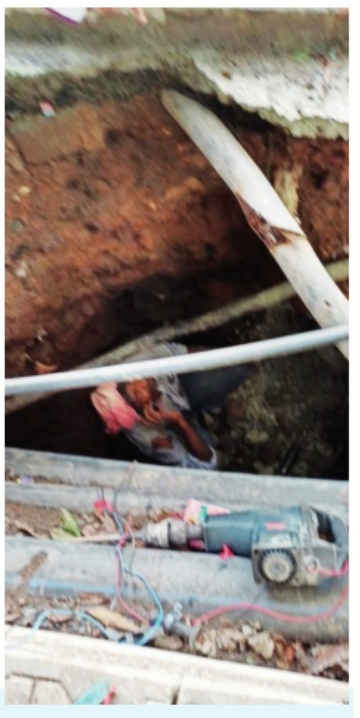

"BBMP authorities and BWSSB engineers are usually in a terrible hurry to penalise or punish the common public for digging the road but they are silent when it comes to acting tough against people with deep pockets — BK Chandran, social worker from Halasuru

Downpour dregs on

Mittaganahalli landfill inaccessible due to rain; as garbage auto tippers overflow, Mahadevapura is worst-affected

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Door-to-door garbage collection across all wards in Bengaluru's BBMP limits has been severely impacted due to a backlog caused by the rain-soaked Mittaganahalli landfill, which has become inaccessible over the last two days. The situation is particularly dire in Mahadevapura, where waste collection operations have come to a complete halt, leaving auto tippers unable to proceed with their rounds as compactors remain stuck at the landfill.

PAGE 5
WELCOME TO WATERWORLD

The ongoing heavy rain has made the landfill's motorable routes unusable, leading to a bottleneck in waste disposal. Compounding the issue is the increased amount of garbage generated during the recent festival season, an additional 55-60 tonnes of waste per day causing further strain on the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) operations.

In Mahadevapura alone, where door-to-door garbage collection has been suspended, more than 300 auto tippers are tasked with managing the daily load of 285 tonnes of waste. With no compactors returning

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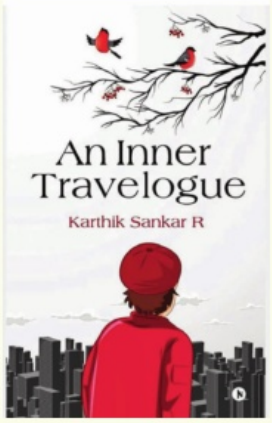
3 THINGS TO DO

01 Poetry night



This time around, at "Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace," explore some amazing poems penned by Karthik Sankar in his book 'Inner Travelogue.' A resident of Bengaluru, he is a software development manager by profession. His alter ego is that of a poet, and whenever the poet in him wakes up, poetry flows from an unknown source within him, and he pens it down.

Where: Urban Solace
When: October 22, 7.30 pm to 9 pm

02 Musical bliss

Join in for an evening filled with melodious tunes, vibrant performances, and infectious energy as KS Harishankar graces the stage for a special concert in the city. Known for his captivating voice and heartfelt performances, Harishankar has won the hearts of the Malayali audience with chart-topping hits like "Jeevamshamayi" from Theevandi and "Pavizha Mazhaye" from Athiran. His contributions to the industry have been remarkable, and he recently gained international acclaim for lending his voice to the Malayalam version of "Naatu Naatu" from RRR.

Where: Nexus Koramangala Mall
When: October 26, 4 pm

03 Handicraft exhibit

Explore a diverse range of handicrafts that reflect the rich cultural heritage of various regions in India at "Bengaluru Utsav." It is a vibrant exhibition and sale of handicrafts organised by the Grand Flea Market. The festival showcases a variety of unique products crafted by artists and artisans from across the country.

Where: Chitrakala Parishath
When: Until October 27

Savour your coffee—it's now dearer than ever

Further hike of Rs 100–200 looming as weather hits bean crops; hoteliers in city say they shall wait for sometime before deciding to charge more for coffee

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Further hikes in coffee powder prices might compel hoteliers to charge more for a cup of coffee

Here's some bad news for coffee lovers who are already feeling the pinch of the hike in coffee powder prices. The coffee lovers are expected to pay more to buy coffee powder in the next six months. The price of coffee powder has been increased by Rs 100 to Rs 200, and there are chances of a further hike of Rs 100 to Rs 200 in the upcoming months.

Coffee harvesting time varies depending on the variety of coffee and the climate, but it usually takes around seven months for Arabica and nine months for Robusta coffee. It is also said that there is a decline in coffee production due to changes in climate, thus having a cascading effect on consumers.

"The coffee production has come down by 20 to 30 per cent across the world due to climate change. Coffee powder traders have no other option than hiking the coffee powder price as the prices of Arabica and Robusta coffee have already increased. There is also a decrease in Arabica coffee production in Brazil," said Perikal M Sundar, chairman of the Indian Coffee Traders Association (ICTA) and former president of the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI).

Sundar said that he wished for the Central Government to take measures either to reduce tax on the import of coffee or impose restrictions on the export of coffee. "I am of the opinion that such measures will help stabilise coffee prices," he said.

> **"Prices of Arabica and Robusta coffee have already increased. Coffee powder traders have no other option than hiking coffee powder price**
>
> –Perikal M Sundar, ICTA chairman & FKCCI former president

Possible hike in coffee price at hotels

The price hike in coffee powder is expected to have an effect on hoteliers, and further hikes might compel them to increase the coffee price at hotels. As of now, consumers have to pay Rs 12 to Rs 30 per cup of coffee, depending on the type of hotel. Moreover, a cup of coffee may cost more than Rs 100 at star hotels.

SP Krishnaraj of Nisarga Grand Hotel on Nrupathunga Road said that he uses pure coffee powder that is priced at Rs 750 per kg. "Further hike in the price of coffee powder will affect my business. I do not want to pass the burden on to the customers. I have not taken the decision to increase the price of coffee at my hotel. I will wait for some more time to make a decision on increasing the price of coffee," said Krishnaraj.

Meanwhile, Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association president PC Rao said that the hoteliers have not taken a decision to hike the coffee price. "We will wait for some time to make a decision. We will take measures to avoid the burden on the customers," Rao said.

Improving care & support for dementia patients

The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has developed the 'Dementia Design Studio,' a unique initiative integrated into the early post-diagnostic support care pathway. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of life for people living with dementia by combining environmental design, assistive technologies, and intelligent systems.

The official virtual launch event for the Dementia Design Studio is scheduled for Tuesday. Key dignitaries, including professor Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, and professor Pratima Murthy, Director of NIMHANS, will be participating in the event alongside various stakeholders, cognitive neurologists, dementia care providers, and NGOs.

Dementia is a chronic neurodegenerative disease that affects millions worldwide, including 8.8 million older adults in India, representing 7.4 per cent of those aged above 60. The number of dementia patients in India is projected to double by 2050, making it essential to provide comprehensive care.

The initiative aims to enhance the quality of life for people living with dementia

A needs assessment conducted among dementia patients and their families revealed a lack of awareness about dementia care and the need for cognitively stimulating activities and environment modifications. The Dementia Design Studio addresses these concerns by offering a holistic approach to care, focusing on non-pharmacological interventions such as environmental modifications and technology-based solutions. These innovations aim to help people with dementia live safely, maintain independence, and participate socially for as long as possible.

The project, developed in collaboration with experts and individuals living with dementia, follows a participatory approach. By engaging directly with those affected, the design studio creates solutions that reflect real needs in the Indian context. These include changes to physical spaces and the use of assistive technologies that enhance safety and independence. The Dementia Design Studio will serve as a long-term resource for developing culturally relevant solutions, fostering better dementia care across India.

This initiative is supported by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India through the Manthan Platform and generously funded by corporate social responsibility (CSR) contributions. **–BMB**

Man murdered in drunken brawl

A 32-year-old man was found murdered in Konappana Agrahara, Electronic City police station limits. Police reached the spot after being alerted of a body lying in a pool of blood under the metro flyover on Monday morning.

The accused has been identified as Sarvesh, a pani puri vendor, who has been living in the city with his wife and a 5-year-old son in a rented house in Electronic City for the past 12 years.

According to the police, after closing his stall post 10.30 pm, Sarvesh used to visit a wine shop nearby every day and then leave for his house.

On Sunday, around 11 pm, he visited the wine shop and bought alcohol and went to a vacant spot opposite the shop with his other drinking partners. He is said to have had a fight over a small issue which escalated and resulted in the accused smashing Sarvesh with a stone on his head, causing his death and then fleeing the spot.

In a swift action, the police identified the accused via CCTV footage and arrested Rahul Kumar (27) and Sahadev (45), both daily waged labourers.

The accused hail from Jharkhand. It is said the three of them were drinking when they had a fight with Sarvesh over cigarettes and attacked him with a cobble stone, killing him on spot.

Fake audio clip: Case registered

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a case against unidentified individuals for circulating a fake audio clip, falsely attributed to Congress MLA KM Shivalinge Gowda, which went viral on social media. The audio, which surfaced last week, allegedly features Gowda's voice discussing the distribution of money to influence voters in Hassan ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In his complaint, the MLA from Arasikere claimed that the audio, using what he described as his "cloned voice", was deliberately leaked to the media on October 17 to damage both his reputation and that of his party.

The police have launched an investigation to trace the source of the uploaded audio clip.

Man injured in cylinder explosion

A 22-year-old man was seriously injured in a gas cylinder explosion in a residential area under the jurisdiction of SG Palya police station, early on Monday morning.

Pawan, who works in a nearby eatery, was reportedly preparing to make tea in the living room of his house when the gas cylinder suddenly exploded. The explosion resulted in serious burn injuries to Pawan, who was immediately rushed to Victoria Hospital by neighbours.

Doctors are monitoring his condition, and he remains under critical care.

Rain or shine, crack down on drunk driving goes on

Traffic police take precautionary measures to ensure drive was conducted across city all through last week

In a determined bid to tackle drunken driving, the traffic police launched a special drive from October 14 to October 20, across the city. Despite the heavy rains, officials carried out rigorous checks at key points, resulting in the registration of 579 cases of drunk driving.

The operation spanned all traffic police stations, with officers inspecting a staggering 49,371 vehicles. The East Division saw 16,724 vehicles stopped, resulting in 147 cases of drunk driving, where violators faced immediate consequences, their licences confiscated and forwarded to the Regional Transport Office for suspension.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Traffic East Division, Kuldeep Kumar R Jain, emphasised the significance of the ongoing special drives against drunk driving. "We conduct these drives from Thursday to Sunday. If it happens to rain in certain jurisdictions, those areas are exempted from the checks; however, if there is no rain, the checks proceed as planned. In some areas, over the past two to three days, we've seen more rainfall, while in others, it may not rain at all or start only after 1 am," he said.

He also spoke about challenges with the drive. "These drives typically occur between 11 pm and 1 am. It is challenging, but we take precautions such as using raincoats, reflective jackets, blinkers, and arranging barricades in a zigzag pattern. This allows us to stop vehicles, check them, and then allow them to pass. The precautions we take are twofold: one to ensure our own safety and another to protect road users."

—Sanjana CS

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New lung space in Yelahanka

Niligiri plantation will soon be replaced by a park similar to Cubbon and Lalbagh

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Yelahanka will soon have its own lung space on a 153-acre parcel of land at Madappanahalli by replacing the Nilgiri plantation.

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre announced on Monday. The plan is to construct a green patch on the lines of Cubbon Park and Lalbagh with fruit-bearing native and medicinal plant species.

The green patch will house Baba Saheb Ambedkar Pakshiloka, Nadaprabhu KempeGowda Mini Zoological Park, and Saalumarada Thimmakka Tree Park.

Khandre said the process of getting back the 153-acre land, which was given to Karnataka Forest Corporation Limited for plantation by the Forest Department, has already been initiated and the foundation stone of the mega park will be laid in the last week of November.

He visited Madappanahalli plantation along with forest department officials on Monday and said that the project is important as there is no botanical garden like Lalbagh, Cubbon Park in the northern part of Bengaluru.

There are hundreds of residential layouts in and around Yelahanka and the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) is also developing the Shivarama Karanth Layout spanning 17 villages between Doddaball and Hesaraghatta roads. For this project, the BDA acquired 3,546 acres of land from landowners and developed around 25,000 plots.

"The city has grown exponentially but another lung space such as that of Cubbon Park and Lalbagh never got built to balance this pace of urbanisation. The green patch will also save the reputation of the garden city. There are already 5,000-6,000 houses in the area. Setting up of Indira Gandhi Biological Park, a forest of medicinal plants, and mini zoo in the area will not only serve as the much-needed lung space for the region but will also be a centre of attraction for people living in the surrounding," added Khandre.

Cubbon park (File photo)

"The project is good news. Care should be taken in not commercialising the space. Cubbon Park has been destroyed to a large extent due to this reason

–Resident of Yelanka

The eucalyptus trees planted in the area will be removed and hundreds of saplings of native species like Nandi, Honne, Bilva, Mahabilva, etc. will be planted. Measures will also be taken to educate the young generation about native tree species. For this, as many as 50 signboards with names of the tree species and other information will be put.

While residents of north Bengaluru have welcomed the project, they say the focus should be on the conservation of biodiversity and creation of a pristine green patch that can serve as lung space for north Bengaluru in the future.

"If the idea is to remove eucalyptus trees and plant native tree varieties to create a lung space, the project is good news. However, care should be taken in not commercialising the space. Cubbon Park has been destroyed to a large extent due to this reason," said a resident of Yelahanka.

Declutter and go green this festive season

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

This festive season, citizens are celebrating sustainability with a 'Festive Swap' initiative, an eco-friendly initiative held in HSR Layout from October 17 to 24. The initiative allows residents to declutter their homes and contribute to a greener future by swapping or donating pre-loved clothes, books, and jewellery. Participants have the option to sell their items and earn extra cash for the season or donate to support NGOs, creating a win-win situation for all involved.

The festive swap not only encourages responsible shopping but also helps conserve natural resources, reduce waste, and promote sustainability. With top-quality, pre-loved items on display, shoppers can find treasures at affordable prices while reducing their environmental footprint.

One of the event organisers highlighted its broader impact, "This is an opportunity for people to declutter their closets and contribute to something larger. It's not just about buying or selling, it's about creating a community that values sustainability."

One can bring their own clean, gently used clothes, books, or jewellery to the event. Items will be catalogued, displayed, and sold, with participants receiving earnings for sold items. Those who prefer to donate can give their items to be sold for a good cause. Any unsold donations will be listed on the event's website, www.sumrux.com, with proceeds going to NGOs. Shoppers can browse a variety of high-quality pre-loved clothing, books, and jewellery at the event, making responsible choices that are easy on both the wallet and the planet.

Festive Swap, eco-friendly swap in HSR layout from Oct 17 to 24

Why it matters

The fashion industry is one of the largest contributors to global pollution. "By extending the life of pre-loved clothing, we reduce the demand for new garments, conserve resources like water, and cut down on landfill waste," said the event organiser.

"Buying second-hand clothing has a massive impact. For example, reusing just one cotton T-shirt saves up to 2,700 litres of water, and a single pair of jeans can save over 7,500 litres. This simple choice can significantly reduce your environmental footprint," they said.

The festive swap also highlights the importance of book recycling. Recycling just 500 books can save the equivalent of one fully grown tree, making it an easy way to make a difference this season.

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Unmoved trucks

Kundalahalli

10 to 15 garbage trucks have been parked outside my apartment building for several days near Renaissance Rainbow Apartment, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli.

Unmaintained area

Margondanahalli

The area around Nisarga layout, located near Baldwin School, has long been one of the dirtiest and most neglected spots in Margondanahalli, Anandpura, particularly in TC Palya.

Unfinished bridge

Shantinagar

A bridge construction project that began about a year ago remains unfinished. The drainage system has malfunctioned twice, and the overall condition of the road in Ward No. 89 in the Shantinagar constituency is deplorable.

CITIZENS NAVIGATE PUDDLE OF MISERY

BBMP public advisory urging residents to stay indoors amid rain chaos in city faces public backlash; motorists post visuals online, vent on challenges due to flooding on streets

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Rains are pouring in misery in the city, turning streets into streams and inundating homes, while underpasses are left flooded, creating a nightmare for commuters. In response to the chaos, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued a public advisory urging residents to "stay indoors, close windows and doors, and avoid travel if possible." However, this guidance has faced backlash from netizens, particularly as some areas of the city enjoy bright sunshine.

Visuals out on social media

Residents in the worst-hit regions have taken to social media, posting videos and photos of submerged roads, highlighting the need for a holiday and the option for remote work. Climate scientist Pradeep, who monitors rainfall patterns in Bengaluru through his X account, @Bengalururain, noted that such intense morning thunderstorms in October are uncommon. "Some parts of West Bengaluru received over 60mm of rain, though it seems to have slightly weakened," he shared on his page, Bengaluru Rain Alert.

Dr Rajath Athreya (@FoolzWizdom), a neonatologist, posted videos showing the typically flood-resistant Outer Ring Road (ORR) now inundated. "This stretch of ORR doesn't usually get flooded. Anyone who doesn't need to be on the roads should stay home," he advised.

Another user, @travel_vb, expressed frustration over the deteriorating infrastructure, stating, "We work hard and pay some of the highest taxes, yet we're faced with hazardous living conditions." The Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru, echoed this sentiment, questioning the rationale behind continuous tax increases while infrastructure remains inadequate. "If the government can't maintain Silk Board, a major traffic junction, how can they justify imposing new taxes?" Another user, @itsKingAppu, shared his frustration about being unable to leave his home near Bellandur due to flooding while his employer refused to allow remote work. Moreover, those brave enough to venture outside faced significant traffic congestion, especially near Old Madras Road.

Meanwhile, the road parallel to CMH Road in Indiranagar has remained unpaved for over four years. It frequently floods, and this time sewage is overflowing from the manhole cover as well. Despite numerous individuals sharing images and voicing their complaints about the situation, the problem remains unresolved.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

97 streets under water

Reacting to this, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath stated, "Over the past two days, the city received heavy rainfall with water flowing onto the streets in 97 locations. Specifically, there were three affected areas in Yelachenahalli, 18 in Yeshwanthpur, and eight in MT Layout, where houses experienced flooding. The Central Silk Board (CSB) area was also impacted this time, leading to numerous complaints about road flooding; however, the water has since receded."

Managing floods

Nath mentioned that seven trees had fallen due to the rain. "BMRCL has initiated an alternative drainage system at CSB, which could provide a permanent solution to the flooding issues in that area," he said, sharing that there are two plans in the works to address the flooding. Referring to past challenges, he noted that during the 2022 rainfall, 173 km of lining works were undertaken. "Furthermore, the BBMP is currently holding meetings with the World Bank to discuss redesigning and installing sluice gates as part of their comprehensive strategy to improve the city's drainage infrastructure," he added.

Cloudy, rainy days ahead

Upon observing the weather parameters, Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist at IMD, stated that isolated heavy rain is expected in Udupi, along with heavy rain and thundershowers likely in Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Kolar, and Chikballapura. Moderate rain and thundershowers are anticipated across most remaining areas of South Interior Karnataka, while light to moderate rain is expected in Dakshina Kannada and some districts of North Interior Karnataka. In Bengaluru, the sky will be generally cloudy, with moderate rain and thundershowers expected, including heavy rainfall overnight or in the early morning. For the next 48 hours, the city can expect a similar pattern of cloudy skies and light to moderate rain, with temperatures remaining consistent.

School holiday fiasco

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner G Jagadish on Monday announced a holiday for schools in the city due to heavy rainfall. The message was shared in groups at 7:20 am. However, many students had already left for school by the time the message was shared. Upon arriving at their schools, they were told to return home. Moreover, some schools chose not to grant a holiday, citing the absence of an official order, as the message was communicated only in groups.

Sources from the DC's office clarified that it was an oral directive, with the formal written communication issued at 10:19 am. This late announcement sparked criticism, as many questioned the decision to declare a holiday after 8 am, a time when most students would already be in school or en route. Parents and educators expressed their frustration, asking why the holiday couldn't have been declared well in advance to avoid unnecessary confusion and disruption for students and families.

Vijay Karnataka Chancellor's Conclave Charts Path to Position Karnataka as Global Education Powerhouse

Clear vision to drive educational excellence established

The prestigious 'VK Chancellor's Conclave,' an event spearheaded by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, recently unfolded at one of the city's premier venues, setting the stage for a critical conversation on the future of higher education. The gathering brought together chancellors from Karnataka's leading private and deemed universities, alongside renowned educationists, to explore strategies for elevating Karnataka's status as a global education hub in South Asia and beyond. This high-profile meeting highlighted the collective vision to drive educational excellence and collaboration at an international scale.

The second edition of this conclave, organized in partnership with Manipal Hospitals, featured key personalities like Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Dr. M. R. Jayaram, Chancellor of MS Ramaiah University and Chairman of Gokula Education Foundation, Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of Reva University, Abhay G. Chebbi, Pro-Chancellor from Alliance University, Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal Hospitals, and several other prominent chancellors and education leaders. The participants lauded this initiative for bringing together top education leaders on a common platform, facilitating an open dialogue on key issues.

Discussions revolved around making Karnataka a global education hub, creating practical and inclusive curricula, and fostering strong links between industry and academia to equip students with essential skills. The conclave also tackled challenges like curriculum modernisation, skill development, common entrance exams, multi-disciplinary learning, faculty development, and addressing faculty migration. The event underscored the growing need for collaboration between academic institutions and industry to enhance the future of education in Karnataka and beyond.

Empowering the Next Generation

The modern education system is failing to illuminate the future of the next generation. It must be reformed to align with the needs of industries and businesses. Instead of focusing solely on score-based education, it is crucial to provide students with practical education that equips them with essential life skills. At the Conclave, experts emphasised the need to create an environment that fosters deep knowledge, skill development in response to change, and enhances critical thinking abilities. This shift is essential for preparing students to meet the challenges of the future effectively.

EVENT PARTNER
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PICS: SRIDHAR KS

Prominent Educationists participated at the VK Chancellors' Conclave jointly organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror. The attendees included Dr. M. C. Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education; Dr. M. R. Jayaram, Chancellor of MS Ramaiah University; Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Vice-Chancellor of Reva University; Abhay G. Chebbi, Pro-Chancellor from Alliance University; Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal Hospital; Rashmi Ravikiran, Chairperson of East West Group of Educational Institutions; D. K. Mohan, Chairman of Cambridge Group of Universities; Dr. S. N. V. L. Narasimha Raju, Chairman of Oxford Education Institutions; S. V. Rajiv Gowda, CEO of East Point Group of Educational Institutions; Sudarshan Channangihalli, Editor of Vijay Karnataka; and M. R. Sudhakar, Head of Ad 6.

> Health and education are priority sectors in the country. It is our dream that everyone should receive a quality education. Private universities, along with the government, are also working toward this. Every educational institution has the responsibility to provide education that puts our state on the global map, attracting more international students and creating employment opportunities for local students. The purpose of the convention is to bring together education giants from all private universities to shed light on the changes needed in higher education."
> – Sudarshan Channangihalli, Editor, Vijay Karnataka

VK CHANCELLORS CONCLAVE 2024

Eliminating the Multiple Choice Model

Dr. Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal Hospital, stressed the need to eliminate the multiple choice question (MCQ) format from the education system, arguing that this approach prevents students from gaining practical knowledge, even if they score high marks. Speaking at the Conclave, he shed light on the current education system, stating, "In the past, students who scored around 80% would top the state. However, the introduction of the MCQ system has diminished the importance of education. Even students scoring 80% cannot secure seats in major colleges anymore. They resort to rote learning for exams, which yields no real benefit. Instead, we should implement aptitude tests and conduct entrance examinations. Private universities need to consider this change."

Dr. Ballal further noted, "Students spend their lives memorizing for MCQ exams. After graduation, they struggle to find work. We must change this approach and focus on making students employable. A degree is not the sole objective; however, the current mindset centers solely on obtaining degrees. This reflects British culture. Today, we need skilled contractors, electricians, and plumbers, yet these skilled workers are scarce. Whenever I speak with a CEO of any company, the shortage of skilled workers is always a pressing issue. We should not depend solely on the government to solve this; private institutions must contribute as well."

Regarding the importance of allied health sciences, Dr. Ballal remarked, "Graduates in allied health sciences have a significant impact on patients. We must prioritize the paramedical system. Doctors spend only one hour checking a patient's well-being, while nurses, OT staff, and dialysis technicians care for them for the remaining 23 hours. Their skills are crucial, and we currently lack trained technicians in this field."

He warned, "If we do not provide quality education and necessary training to unemployed individuals, they may resort to paths of Naxalism or terrorism. We would indirectly contribute to this issue. Once, people traveled abroad for the best healthcare, but now they are returning to our state. Times have changed. Karnataka has ample opportunities for educational innovation and development, which the government and private universities should leverage effectively."

HEALTHCARE PARTNER
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LIFE'S ON

Global Recognition for 'KWIN Vision'

The upcoming Knowledge, Wellbeing, and Innovation (KWIN) city project in the state aims to prioritise education, ensuring that Karnataka's education system shines on the global stage. Dr. M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, expressed his confidence in this vision at the 'VK Chancellor's Conclave 2024', jointly organized by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror at a prominent city hotel. During the day-long discussions, several critical issues were raised, and Dr. Sudhakar, addressing the gathering of prominent private university leaders, emphasized the government's commitment to providing quality education at affordable rates for underprivileged students. "Changes in curriculum, uniform academic schedules, entrance exams, and skill-based education are being implemented to reform higher education," he said.

Dr. Sudhakar further elaborated on the significance of the 'KWIN City' being planned near Dobbspet, which will integrate knowledge, healthcare, and research, creating a landmark for the state's economy. "This initiative will redefine Karnataka's position as a global hub, with a special emphasis on education. Our state's educational framework will gain international recognition," he added.

Curriculum Reform:
To bridge the gap between industry and academia, the minister explained that an industry-aligned curriculum is being developed. "While it is challenging to update the curriculum frequently, the new changes will align with the demands of current industries," Dr. Sudhakar mentioned.

Unified Entrance Exams:
He also addressed the issue of multiple entrance exams conducted by private universities for professional courses, causing stress for students. "We've held discussions with private universities, and starting from the next academic year, all private colleges offering professional courses will conduct a unified entrance exam," he announced.

Skill Development:
Recognising the growing need for skill-based education, the government has partnered with industry leaders to establish four 'Centers of Excellence' across the state. Additionally, in collaboration with the Skill Development Board and Christ University, the state has launched an apprenticeship-based degree program in 45 first-grade colleges.

Teacher Training:
Dr. Sudhakar highlighted ongoing initiatives to enhance faculty training. "In partnership with Wadhwani Foundation and the British Council, we have introduced skill training for students and communication training for teachers. A dedicated Teacher Training Center is being built in Dharwad to further this cause," he concluded.

Curriculum Must Be Aligned with Modern Needs

Prof. S. R. Niranjana

Education experts expressed their opinion that if students are limited to just textbooks, they will not be able to secure good positions in the future. Regarding the 'design of a comprehensive and practical curriculum,' prominent educationists such as Prof. S. R. Niranjana. Vice Chairman, Karnataka State Higher Education Council; Mohammed Mohsin, Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare (Medical Education); Dr. H. B. Raghavendra, Vice Chancellor of The CMR University; Ajitesh Basani, Executive Director of Acharya Bangalore B School; and Dr. S. Hemant Kumar from AIIMS participated in the discussion. They emphasised that a change in the design of the curriculum is essential, and it must be aligned with modern needs. They noted that today, most candidates are solely focused on textbooks and work as if they have no knowledge of the outside world. This is not a positive development for their future, they said.

Implementation of a Unified Timetable is Essential

Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of Reva University, emphasised the need for the state government to implement a unified timetable, highlighting the three-month gap between classes for management quota and CET students. "I transitioned into the education sector after a career in business. The CET admission process is often delayed, causing CET students to join classes three months after management quota students. Conducting separate classes for them is challenging. The government should introduce a standardized timetable to address this issue. Additionally, the new universities are facing inequities in the university banking system. The inclusion of new universities into the existing list leads to scrutiny across all departments, which results in new universities struggling to secure adequate banking support."

"Teaching should resonate with the heart."

Jagannathan K – Head – Technology & Services – Hitachi Systems Micro Clinic emphasised, "For students to secure a job immediately after completing their education, they need to have strong communication skills. They must possess the ability to adapt to change and continuously update their skills as technology evolves. It is crucial to develop the ability to write responses thoughtfully and accurately. Teaching methods should be engaging and leave a lasting impact on students. It's not enough to just complete the curriculum. Teachers should recognize the gaps in students' understanding, prepare thoroughly, and then deliver lessons that foster critical thinking in students."

"Education must cater to needs and aspirations."

Dr. Mamatha G, Head of Career Development at RNS Institute of Technology, remarked, "Today's parents often focus on educating their children solely for financial gain, which can lead to students facing mental pressure and, in some cases, tragic situations like suicide. This mindset needs to change. Education should align with the needs and aspirations of the students. It's not enough to simply understand what students need, but institutions and parents alike must continuously adapt to these evolving needs. The capacity to manage change should be cultivated not only in educational institutions but also in parents. Teachers must adapt their teaching methods to better understand and address the mindset of students."

Need for a Holistic Perspective

M.A. Madan Kumar, CEO of Midas School of Entrepreneurship, emphasised, "Instead of addressing what today's students truly need, they are often told what they don't require. There is a lack of emphasis on critical thinking, creative thinking, and design skills. The education system, divided into three streams—Engineering, Commerce, and Arts—must undergo a transformation. We should view the structure of education as a symbol of development."

Transforming Students into Employable Professionals

Dr. M. R. Jayaram, the Chancellor of MS Ramaiah University and Chairman of Gokula Education Foundation, highlighted a concerning statistic: among the 1.24 lakh students who gain admission to engineering programs in the state, only about 80-90% graduate, and the number securing jobs barely exceeds 19,000. This translates to an employment rate of only around 10%. A significant factor contributing to this unemployment is the lack of skills among graduates. Dr. Jayaram stated, "We need to address this issue actively, especially in the context of the current economic slowdown. Alongside these challenges, the skill deficit among students is particularly evident. Both the government and educational institutions must focus on providing skill training to students. Only when we offer training aligned with industry needs can we create employment opportunities for our graduates."

"Several key issues were discussed at the Chancellors' Conclave. For higher education institutions to access greater opportunities, collaboration is essential, and this platform facilitates that. Karnataka, already renowned for its IT and BT sectors, is expected to emerge as a leading hub for education in the future."
-Ajitesh Basani, Executive Director, Acharya Bangalore B-School

"Topics discussed at Cannes Cave are expected to be implemented at the government level. Thanks to Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror for providing the opportunity to collaborate on the event."
– K. Vijayakala Sudhakar, Head, Add 6 Advertising

Focus on global knowledge

"Today's students are very narrow-minded. They do not think beyond their boundaries, which leads to a lack of awareness of global knowledge. This is not good for their future. They need to develop their personality."
-Mohammed Mohsin, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare (Medical Education)

Expert's point of view

"Private universities must come together to create a more conducive learning environment for students. Just as we have successfully branded Karnataka as a tourism destination, we need to elevate our education system to a global brand."
– Dr. V.G. Joseph, Chancellor, Garden City University

"Retaining skilled educators is a major challenge. Moreover, when experienced professors leave mid-semester, it reflects poorly on the institution. We need regulations in place to control this issue."
– D.K. Mohan Chairman, Cambridge Group of Institutions

"Universities must focus more on innovation and prioritize research. It's becoming increasingly difficult to stick to traditional education models. We should offer a variety of courses within our universities to prevent students from seeking them elsewhere."
– Abhay G. Chebbi, Pro-Chancellor, Alliance University

"Multiple exams have become a burden for students. In this context, the state government's implementation of a uniform education system is a welcome move, as it will greatly benefit students."
– Dr. S.N.V.L. Narasimha Raju, Chairman, Oxford Educational Institutions

"We must think beyond conventional boundaries. Instead of hiring faculty who work just for a paycheck, we should retain passionate educators. The government needs to devise a plan to revitalise declining courses like civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering."
– Rashmi Ravikiran, Chairperson, East West Group of Educational Institutions

"Curriculum changes are a major issue. While direct changes are not always feasible, universities must evolve to meet current demands. Our goal should be to create an industry-aligned curriculum that benefits students."
– S.V. Rajiv Gowda, CEO, East Point Group of Educational Institutions

"Educational institutions should not merely be degree factories. They must create an environment that fosters job-oriented education. Both central and state governments must devise policies to address the challenges faced by the education sector."
– H.N. Arun Kumar, Director, Chanakya University

"Quality education is our top priority. Providing modern education is our goal because our students should be up-to-date after graduation, not outdated." – Dr. K.R. Paramahamsa Chairman, AMC group of institutions

"The discussions at the Conclave were insightful, but implementation is key. I believe the government will take necessary steps to act on these suggestions. If chancellors from public universities had also participated, it would have further aided the policy-making process."
– H R Kiran, Secretary, R.R. Institute of Technology

"The VK Conclave was a vital platform to bring together visionary leaders and ignite meaningful conversations that will shape the future of our academics and education sector
– Dr Hemanth Kumar S Dean, School of Buissiness, AIMS Institute

Road dug up 'without permission, precautions'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the road but they are silent when it comes to acting tough against people with deep pockets," said BK Chandran, a social worker from Halasuru.

Chandran said that he has already informed the BBMP and the BWSSB engineers about the illegal digging of the road and connecting sanitary pipes to the manhole. "I informed Halasuru Police Inspector who sent four police constables to the spot. The police constables directed the contractor to stop the work till he gets the permission from the authorities. Now, the work has stopped. The BBMP and the BWSSB must now take action against those responsible for digging the road that was white topped a few years ago," he said, though he also thanked the Halasuru police for visiting the spot as they at least put a stop to the work.

Expressing a similar opinion, Naveen Kumar R, a resident of Halasuru, said that the BBMP engineers make the common man run from pillar to post if he approaches them for permission to cut the road for a water or sanitary connection. "The BBMP engineers demand bribes from the common public for seeking permission to cut the road. The digging of the road has been happening for more than 20 days. How come the BBMP or the BWSSB engineers are not aware of it?" asks Naveen Kumar.

He demanded the BBMP conduct an inquiry into the digging of the road and take stringent action for the engineers for colluding with the flat owners of the nearby apartment complex.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer Savitri said that she received a complaint from the public on the digging of the road. "I am writing a letter to the higher authorities on the digging of the road without permission," the assistant executive engineer said.

When informed, BWSSB assistant executive engineer Kantaraj said that he was not aware of the digging of the road to fix a sanitary problem. "I did not give permission to connect the sanitary pipe to the manhole. I will send my subordinates to the spot," he said.

Karnataka's economy outpaces national growth

Karnataka remains a key driver of India's economic growth, achieving an impressive GSDP growth of 10.2% in FY 2023-24, well above the national average of 8.2%, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

This remarkable performance comes despite significant challenges, including the worst drought in a decade and a slowdown in global IT markets.

Initially, the National Statistical Estimate (NSE) projected a modest GSDP growth of 4% for Karnataka; however, this figure was revised to an impressive 13.1% by the end of the fiscal year, highlighting an early underestimation of the state's economic potential.

While the agriculture sector faced setbacks due to drought conditions, Karnataka's reliance on the IT and hardware sectors—representing 28% of its Gross State Value Added (GSVA)—made it susceptible to global economic fluctuations.

The Indian IT industry's growth declined from 15.5% in FY 2022 to 8% in FY 2023, reflecting concerns over global recession and inflation. Nevertheless, Karnataka's economy demonstrated resilience, attributed to strategic governance and a diversified growth approach.

For FY 2024-25, the NSE anticipates Karnataka's GSDP growth at 9.4%, slightly below the national average forecast of 10.5%. However, the Ministry of Finance predicts a more optimistic 14% growth for the state, backed by strong fiscal indicators.

As of September 2024, Karnataka recorded a 10% year-on-year increase in GST collections and a 24% rise in stamp duty revenue, indicating a positive economic trajectory. Karnataka's per capita GSDP ranks among the highest in the nation, comparable to Telangana.

Industry experts stress that Karnataka's leadership in the IT sector and its ongoing ability to attract investments highlight its significant role in shaping India's digital and economic landscape.

Crane driver gets 1-year jail for fatal accident

In a landmark judgment, a crane driver was sentenced to one year of imprisonment and fined ₹7,500 for reckless driving at high speed and carelessly that led to the death and injuries to four others and seven other vehicles were damaged. The incident occurred on March 10, 2014, at around 4:45 PM on Pattegarapalya Main Road, under Kamakshipalya Traffic Police jurisdiction.

According to police, Nagayya Bin Shantaiah was driving the crane recklessly, causing a series of accidents that claimed one life and left several others with injuries. Police officals had registered a case under multiple sections, including 279, 337, 338, and 304(2) of the Indian Penal Code.

Motorcyclist fined ₹29,000 for negligent riding

A court in the city has fined a motorcycle rider, after he was found guilty of reckless driving, endangering human life, in July 2024. The rider, Nagesh S, aged 19, was going on high speed with two pillion riders near the Bescom office in Badarahalli. None of the riders were wearing helmets. His negligence led to a collision with another motorcycle, causing injuries to the rider of the other vehicle.

Following an investigation, a charge sheet was filed under multiple sections of the Motor Vehicle Act, including Sections 125(2), 125(9), 129, and 177, leading to the trial in the JMFC Traffic-2 Court. The court delivered a guilty verdict on Monday, imposing a fine of ₹29,000 on Nagesh.

Rain hits garbage disposal too

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from the landfill, these tippers are now full with uncollected garbage from the previous day, making it impossible for them to resume their collection duties.

Overflowing garbage

Mahadevapura, which generates the highest amount of waste in the city, ranks 11th out of the 28 BBMP divisions, generating 285 tonnes of garbage daily, of which 63% is mixed waste. Despite efforts from volunteers promoting segregation and avoiding single-use plastic, the mixed waste issue remains a significant challenge.

While BSWML marshals, volunteers, and workers continue their efforts tracking attendance via RFID for auto tippers, conducting Swachh Bharat campaigns, and cleaning garbage dumping spots the combined challenges of weather, festival waste, and logistical disruptions have left the division grappling to stabilise waste collection and transport.

Authorities stress that cleaner, greener neighborhoods can only be achieved if residents actively participate in proper waste segregation at the source, helping to reduce the overwhelming amount of mixed waste.

"We strongly believe segregation at source and scientific management of the waste is the only sustainable solution for garbage management in Mahadevapura. We are promoting awareness on composting of wet waste in Apartments and IT Parks. This would reduce the amount of mixed waste going to the landfills Material Recovery Facility(MRF) work had started in Alpine Eco Road, Doddanekundi ward. However, this work has stopped because of a land litigation. We hope to get this automated segregation facility completed at the earliest. This would also reduce the amount of mixed waste going to landfills," says Clement Jayakumar, Member Secretary, Mahadevapura Task Force.

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I Ravikumar.D , R/o 293 5th Main Rd, Kengeri upanagar Bangalore, have changed my daughter's name from SAI SAMHITA R to SAMHITA R for all future purposes.

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I, Mohammed Anees S/o S Amanulla Khan R/a No. 9/A, 1st Main, Muniswamyappa Layout, K G Halli, Bangalore - 560045. Have Changed My Name From MOHAMMED ANEES To MOHAMMED ANEES KHAN. Vide Affidavit Date: 9.10.2024. Sworn Before Notary: C.Sharada.

I, THILAGAVATHY B W/o Baskaran E R/o No 124 1st Cross Balaji Krupa Layout RK Hegde Nagar Bengaluru 560077. I have changed my name to THILAGHA BASKARAN vide affidavit dated: 18/10/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I Banu Kumar S/O, Shankarappa Gangappa R/o No 366 7th Main Road Lakshmidevi Nagar Nandini Layout Bengaluru - 560096 have changed my name to Banu Kumar Shankarappa.

I, Gnanendra Choudary S/o G Pattabhi Naidu R/o No 25 2nd Cross T Lakshmaiah Layout Uttarahalli Bengaluru- 560061 have changed my name to G Gnanendra Choudary for all purposes.

I Hemalkumar Jayantilal Mistry S/O, Jayantilal Mistry R/o B-1208, Gopalan Lakefront, Veerasandara Main Road, Veerasandara, Electronic City - 560100 Bangalore Karnataka India have changed my name to Hemal Mistry

VINAMRA Santhosh w/o Archan Rao r/o Santhosh Apts Palmgrove Rd Bangalore changed my name as Vinamra Santhosh Rao

I Saher D/O, Nazeer Sab R/o 704, D Block, Sai Kalyan Ultima, Rachenahalli Main Road Thanisandra, Bengaluru - 560077 have changed my name to Saher Nazeer Sab.

I, Sudha Konappanavrr W/o, Nilesh I Patil R/o Nisarga, Kagwad Road, Shiraguppi Athani Belagavi 591242 have changed my name to Sudha Nilesh Patil for all purposes.

I, RAHUL .P, Residing at No 5/129, Antony Swamy Layout, Lingarajapuram, Kacharakanahalli, Bangalore -560 084, Have changed my name to RAHUL DHANVEER, vide affidavit dated 21/10/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

WE NAWAL SAROJ TIRKEY and SUNANDA SAHOO R/o H-906 Adarsh Plam Retreat Daffodils Devarabisanahalli Bangalore-560103. We have changed Our Daughter name From SAMAIRA KELKAR to SAMAIRA TIRKEY vide affidavit dated: 18/10/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, ZAKIR SHARIEF MOHAMMED SHARIEF S/o MOHAMMED SHARIEF R/o No 26,4th Cross 3rd Main Someshwara Nagar Jayanagar 1st Block Banglore South Bengaluru -560011. I have changed my name to ZAKIR SHARIFF M S vide affidavit dated: 18/10/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, MADHUVANTI VEERANNA PATTAN W/o Kumaraswamy Shivananjappa R/at No.598, Flat No.G001, Sapthagiri Sannidhi, 36th Main, 25th Cross, Ideal Homes, R R Nagar, Bengaluru- 560098 have changed my name to MADHUVANTI KUMARASWAMY vide affidavit dated: 14/10/2024 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, REGINOLD DEVA KINGSTON MICHAEL Residing at House No.1115 A/1 18th Main, 3rd Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru – 560076, have changed my name to REGINOLD DEVA KINGSTON MICHEAL, vide affidavit dated 17/10/2024, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, SALMAN ZAFARULLA MIRDE S/o Zafarulla R/o No 307 3rd Floor, Land Capital Calista, Ananthapura Main Road,Attur, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru -560064.I have changed my name to SALMAN MIRDE vide affidavit dated: 18/10/2024 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, Venugopala N R/o C207 Splendid Lakedews Apt, Begur, 560068 have changed my minor son's name from Sudhanva N to Sudhanva Karanth N.

I, NIDA, R/a.No.460,2nd Main Road, 1st Stage,3rd Block, HBR Layout, Bengaluru-43. I, have Changed my name to NIDA AEJAZ Vide affidavit dated 19.10.2024 Sworn before Notary M.Narendran Bengaluru

I, Munthaj Begaum D/o Ahmed Baig R/o #279/6, 11th Cross Masjid Road, Devasandra, Bangalore North, Krishna - rajapuram, B'lore-560036 have changed my name to Munthaj Begam for all purposes.

I, M.S.Madhusudana RAO R/O No 414/A, 1st Floor, 8th Main Road, Hanumantha Nagar, Blr-19 changed my name from M. S. Madhusudhana Rao to M. S. Madhusudana Rao for all future purposes.

I, Mohammed Jibran S/o Shakeel Ahmed R/a No.46/3, 1st Cross Road, Marappa Garden, Bangalore-560046. I Have Changed My Name From MOHAMMED JIBRAN To MOHAMMED JIBRAN SHAIKH. Vide Affidavit Date: 24.09.2024. Sworn Before Notary: Meera Hassan.

I Mahesha Madhugiri Dhanraj R/o No-8 shiva Stuti,4th main, yadavnagar, Uppharahalli, Tumakuru 572102. have changed my name to Mahesh Madhugiri Dhanraj for all purposes.

I, Parveen Taj Syed Salman W/o Syed Salman R/o 66/1, 13th Cross Sri Kanipaka Vinayaka Nilaya, viratnagar, Bommanahalli Bangalore - 68, have changed my name to Parveen Taj for all purposes.

I, Sonia Rani W/o MOHAMMED JIBRAN SHAIKH R/a No.46/3, 1st Cross Road, Marappa Garden, Bangalore-560046. I Have Changed My Name From SONIA RANI To SONIA RANI SHAIKH. Vide Affidavit Date: 24.09.2024. Sworn Before Notary: Meera Hassan.

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*/10** DAYS
Oct: 26, Nov: 3, 4*, 6, 8**, 10*, 11, 12**, 16, 17*, 18*, 18**, 21

KERALA SPL./ OOTY KODAIKANAL* 7/5* DAYS
Oct: 27, 27* Nov: 3, 3*, 10, 10*, 17, 17*, 24 Dec: 1, 8, 15, 22, 24

SHIRDI NASIK*/PANCH JYOTHIRLINGA 7 DAYS
Oct: 26* Nov: 2*, 3, 4*, 9*, 10, 16*, 17, 23*, 24 Dec: 8, 15, 22

ANDHRA PRADESH/HYDERABAD 10/6* DAYS
Oct: 23, 27* Nov: 3, 3*, 10*, 13, 17*, 23, 24*

GOA SPECIAL*/NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN 5*/4 DAYS
Oct: 28 Nov: 4, 6*,11, 13*, 18, 25 Dec: 2, 9, 16, 23

Mom in daughter's story Veteran actress Dimple Kapadia is all set to charm audiences once again in the upcoming rom-com 'Go Noni Go', a film adapted from her daughter Twinkle Khanna's short story titled 'Salaam Noni Appa'

ALL ABOUT CONFIDENCE

Richa, Ali back NGO that teaches girls self-defence

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal have always spoken about gender representation in the film industry, and the couple's new initiative bats for women's safety. The two, along with Girls Will Be Girls director Shuchi Talati, were the first to train women who wished

to work as gaffers in the film industry. Now, they have reached out to an NGO (Mukkamaar), which teaches girls self-defence, and organised a Jiu-Jitsu workshop conducted by world champion Andressa Cintra in Jiu-Jitsu for them. Two more workshops will be held soon.

MukkaMaar Girls,started by actor Ishita Sharma, is an NGO that has been teaching girls to assert their agency - whether through martial arts training and athletics.

Richa says, "Self-defence isn't just about fighting back; it's about building confidence, resilience, and awareness. When we learned that Andressa would be interested, we put together this unique one-day workshop. We're proud to partner with this NGO that has been empowering young girls through self-defence for years." Ali adds, "I have been training in Jiu-Jitsu, and having the children of this NGO meet with Andressa meant that they'd have such a solid role model in terms of what they can become. Especially for the young girls to meet and learn from a world champion one-on-one, even if it was for a few hours, is inspiring and fantastic."

Ishita said, "Andressa is absolutely inspiring and you can tell that she is a world champion in the way she moves, speaks, coaches! Thanks to Richa and Ali for doing this and always having MukkaMaar's back."

Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha have long been advocates for gender equality and social justice. They recently celebrated the birth of their daughter by planting trees in drought affected areas, via the Nabhangan Foundation. —ETimes

Nicole sheds light on filming intimate scenes

Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman has shared insights into her experience about her upcoming film 'Babygirl', with its provocative themes and intimate scenes.

The A24 erotic thriller, directed by Halina Reijn, features Kidman in the role of Romy, a powerful CEO who embarks on a passionate affair with her much younger intern, Samuel, played by Harris Dickinson.

The film is set to premiere in theatres on Christmas Day.

In a recent Q and A session, Kidman reflecting on her career said, "I've always been on a quest as an actor, I'm always going, where have I not been? And what can I explore as a human being?"

She noted that 'Babygirl' allowed her to explore a dynamic that she had not previously encountered on screen. "This was an area I'd never been," she added as per Deadline.

The Oscar-winning actress described the filming process as "liberating," particularly with a woman director guiding the project. "There's a sort of a jump off the cliff thing where you go, okay, I'm just going to abandon everything and explore this with the people that I trust in a genre that is already set, but hopefully we can explore new territory and especially with the female at the helm" she said.

Kidman emphasized the importance of having a supportive environment, stating, "You have your director at the helm going, 'I will protect you. Nothing that's going to be in the film will be anything that you are not comfortable with. You are going to be okay,'" as per Deadline.

Kidman also highlighted the significant trust established between her and Dickinson during the filming process. —ANI

'No other co-star would have been as patient'

The past few years have been exceedingly difficult for Samantha Ruth Prabhu after she was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease called Myositis. At one point, she was so unwell, that she returned the signing amount on many projects, to concentrate on her health. However, there was one project that she continued with, and that was Raj Nidimoru and Krishna DK's Citadel. She did try to convince the makers to replace her, but they showed full support for her and asked her to continue with the project. The show is now slated to release on November 7.

Now in an exclusive interview with ETimes, Samantha opened up about how Varun supported her during the filming of the show. She said, "He really helped me out. I don't think any other co-star would have been as patient as he was, during the shooting of the film. He was too easy to work with, and there was not even a single time or a day when I thought how am I going to do this scene. I knew I was with the right team." Varun being the modest person that he shared that anyone would have done what he did during the shoot. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Trailer release

The trailer of Sriimurali-starred Kannada movie Bhageera was unveiled on Monday at Orion Mall. The 2.40-minute long trailer has created a buzz among the movie goers. Vijay Kiragandur has bankrolled the movie under the Hombale Films banner while Suri has helmed it.

On the occasion, Suri thanked the cast, especially Sriimurali, and the crew and producer Kiragandur. "The movie is about a police officer who wants to do good for the society. The film was shot mostly at night and huge sets were put up for the shooting. I thank actress Sudharani for her cooperation," said Suri.

He thanked Sriimurali for agreeing to act in the movie. "Sriimurali trusted me as soon as I approached him for this movie," he said.

Sriimurali said that Suri is one of the best directors so he was very happy to act in this movie. "I want to speak more about the shooting but I will wait till October 31. I learnt a lot during the shooting," Sriimurali said. He said that he was a fan of Sudharani who plays the mother character in the movie.

Thanking Suri for selecting her to play the female lead in the movie, Rukmini Vasanth said that her character in the movie was challenging and different from the characters she played till date.

Sudharani thanked Suri and Hombale Films for selecting her to play a key role.

Shooting done

The shooting of Majestic-2 was wrapped up recently and the movie's team has been busy in dubbing and re-recording. The movie went on floors on March 31 and completed the shooting in 126 days at important locations in and around Bengaluru. The movie is about a man, who was born and brought up in the Majestic area in the city that is known for anti-social activities and goon elements.

The movie is helmed by Ramu while H Anandappa has bankrolled it. The movie has Bharath and Samhita Vinya as the lead pair. The film's motion poster of the movie at Kanishka Hotel, Gandhinagar on Saturday.

"The director did not compromise with the quality during the shooting. I accompanied the director to the shooting locations. One duet song was picturised at Muruga Mutt," said producer Anandappa. Thanking Anandappa, director Ramu said the producer provided them with all the facilities during the shooting. "I am lucky to work with a producer who is focused on the quality of the movie. The movie is set to arrive in theaters on December 26," the director said. Senior actress Shruthi plays the mother in the movie.

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Kakuro

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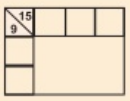
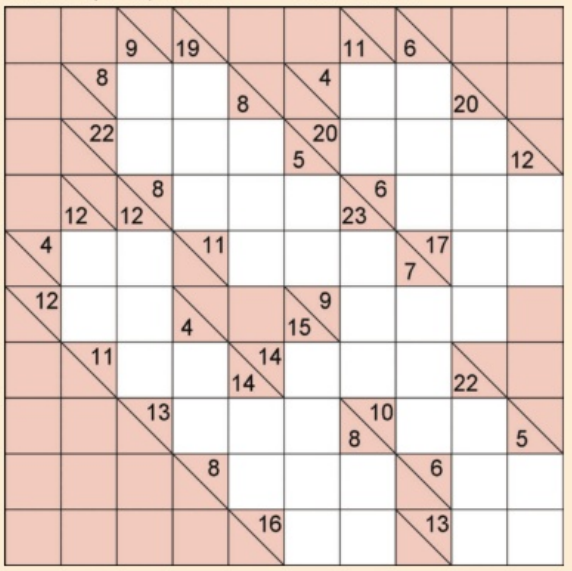
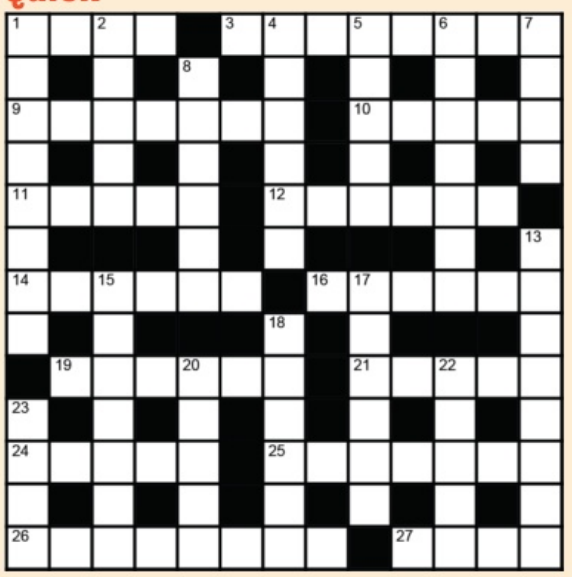


Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Army, large number of things or people (4)
3 Scurried, sank a boat (8)
9 Sieves; conceals (7)
10 Outsmart or dodge (5)
11 The idiot box (2,3)
12 Dramatizes or performs (6)
14 Karnataka's popular idli variant (6)
16 Doesn't fail? (6)
19 ___ __ measure: Bespoke (4,2)
21 Cricket commentator Navjot __ (5)
24 Held at bay (5)
25 Abandon; surrender (7)
26 Showing signs of stress (8)
27 Catch sight of (4)

DOWN

1 Vacillate (8)
2 Tender spots (5)
4 Coffin (6)
5 Greek letter (5)
6 Simple buildings (4-3)
7 Passed away (4)
8 Seven for music (6)
13 Cleverly or discerningly? (8)
15 Unpaid player (7)
17 Ridiculous, silly (6)
18 Consult (6)
20 Provide with (5)
22 Pulls; crawls (5)
23 Auricular (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS G

X LWJE DGOD X OB XWDUSSX-IUWD, RUQOKFU X LWJE DGOD X LWJE WJDGXWI.

Linemaro

When I said I'd die single, I never thought I would meet you

Mindchow

The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play

Joke of the day

I met a one-legged woman outside a club the other day. She was a bouncer

Loop

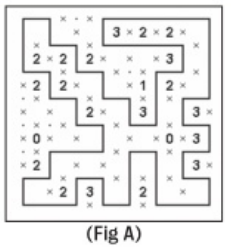
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

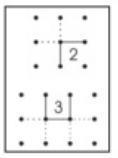
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

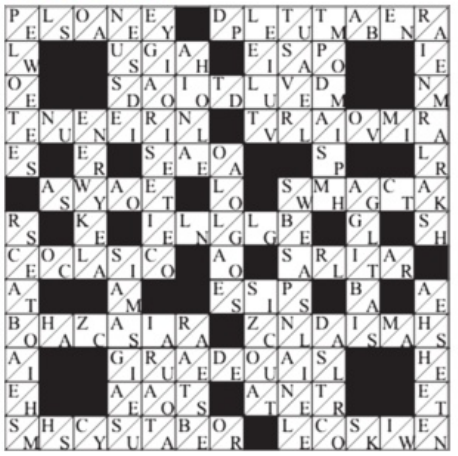


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

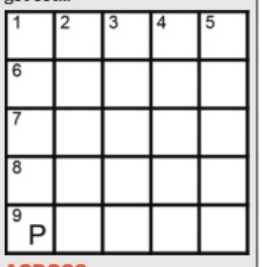
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

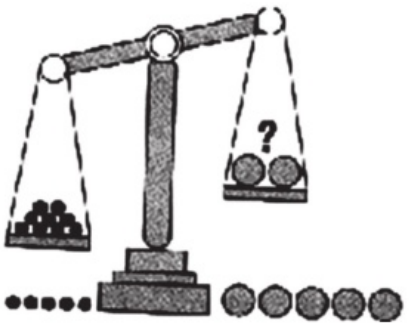
1 As CGS; 6 EE Pet;
7 Organ; 8 In rim;
9 Pi oat

DOWN

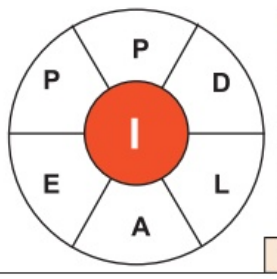
1 To MPs; 2 Erica;
3 Trapa; 4 ie Gin;
5 Gen so

Mensapuzzle

If each large ball weights one and a third times the weight of each little ball, what is the minimum number of balls that need to be added to the right - hand side to make the scales balance ?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2				6				4
5		7				2		1
			3		2			
7		4	8		9	6		3
		1				9		
3		5	1		6	4		7
			2		5			
4		9				7		8
8				9				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

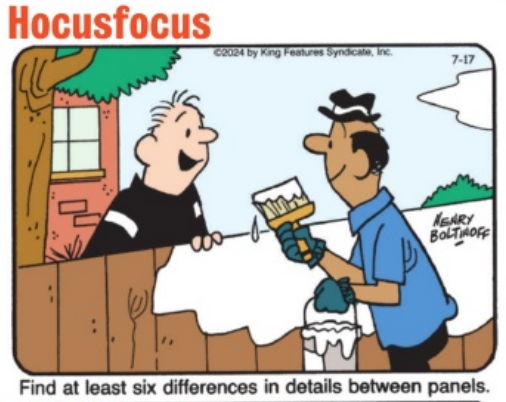
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16
2 3 4 7

Medium = 11
2 6 6 9

Hard = 9
2 4 6 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

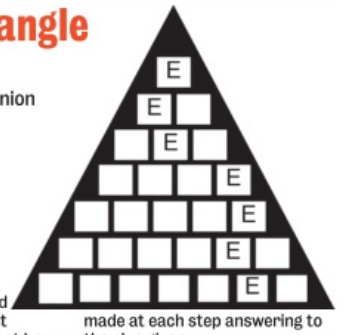
Differences: 1. Window is different. 2. Brush is smaller. 3. Man has less hair. 4. Hat is different. 5. Brick is higher. 6. Collar is smaller.

Riddler

In a bowl, combine one cup of MARMALADE with one tablespoon of OIL. Kick MAE out of the kitchen,then whip until frothy. What creature will be in the bowl?

Alpha triangle

1 Second vowel
2 TV Mister
3 Breakfast companion
4 Commanded
5 Leaf of grass
6 Renowned
7 Perplexed

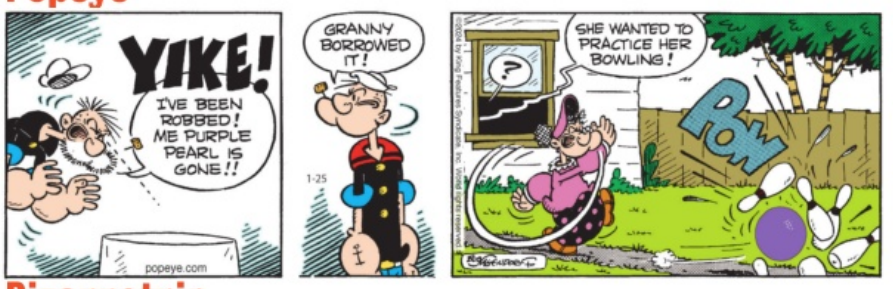


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

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TALES OF MYSTERY & EXAGGERATION
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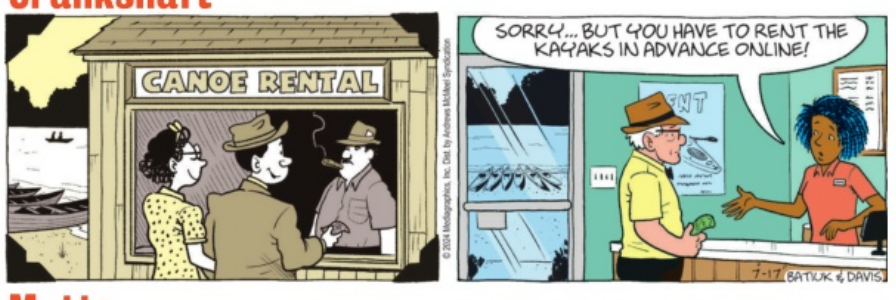
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dull, and your focus on your goals might waver. You may make some hypothetical decisions that seem unrealistic. Your expectations may be high, but impatience might prevent you from achieving them, leaving you upset. Be cautious during adventure trips and avoid rash driving. However, by the afternoon, your profits may increase, and you might start working with new clients.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your creativity is likely to be high, and you may plan to renovate your house. You might buy items to decorate your home or office, which could enhance your social status. Harmony with your spouse will likely lead to peace in domestic life. Disputes with friends, coworkers, and partners may be resolved. You might also receive good news regarding legal matters.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your creativity is likely to be high, and you may attend a creative event. Money that was previously stuck may be recovered. Job seekers are advised to update their skills with the latest trends. Students should put extra effort into their academics.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be occupied with your children's academics, possibly planning for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news regarding their kids. You might consider updating your skills and pursuing higher education for career advancement. Singles could find their soulmates.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may control your internal weaknesses after some self-analysis, boosting your confidence. You might overcome addictions or bad habits. Singles are likely to find a good match, and couples may gain more clarity in their relationships. There could be an opportunity for overseas travel. Students might receive good news about their academic performance.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, sibling disputes may be resolved, strengthening your relationship with them. Your energy levels appear strong, helping you complete challenging projects with ease. You may expand your network during a short work-related trip. Helping someone in need could elevate your social status.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be busy with social and family events, and your polite demeanor may improve your image among relatives and friends. You might spend money on buying artifacts and other items that enhance your social status. Expect some good news from a close relative.

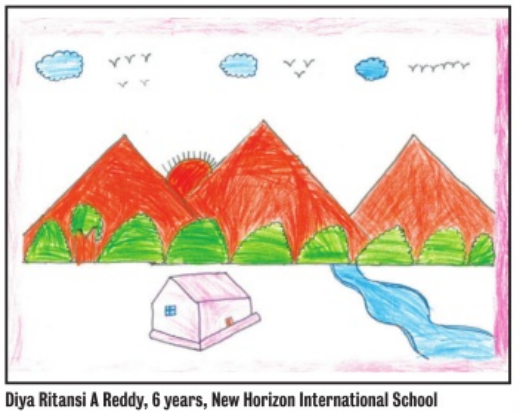
Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel some dissatisfaction and engage in self-exploration, which could slow down your work or projects. You might waste valuable time on unproductive tasks. However, things may improve somewhat by late evening.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you might be disconnected from reality and struggle to handle your responsibilities. Your investments could lead to losses, so be cautious and read documents carefully before signing them. Concerns about elders' health may trouble you. If you are planning renovations, it's advisable to postpone them for a while.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may help those in need, which could enhance your social respect. You might give your all at work, allowing you to complete tasks ahead of schedule. Good news from a sibling may be on the way. However, overworking could make you tired, so avoid stress, as it can impact both your professional and personal life. Meditation and fasting are advised today.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you might feel tired from overworking, leading to laziness and carelessness. Patience is necessary, and if you are planning an adventure trip, it's best to postpone it. Past investments may turn into dead stock. Students should work hard. You might experience back pain, nervous system issues, liver concerns, or skin problems.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel better, and situations may be under control. Your network could assist you at work. You might plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to foster domestic harmony and improve your love life. With your creativity, you may bring home artifacts or other creative items for your family. You might also plan to watch movies or go on an outing with friends or family.



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Avyan Mehta, 7 years, Vidya Niketan School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
9/16
4/2·4
2·4/4
2

RIDDLER
Armadillo

STRIKE OUT

P	L	A	N	E	■	P	L	U	M	B	E	R	■	■
L	■	G	■	I	S	O	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	■	O	D	L	E	D	■	M	■	■	■	■	■	■
T	U	N	E	I	N	■	T	R	I	V	I	A	■	■
S	■	E	■	S	E	A	■	S	■	R	■	■	■	■
S	W	A	T	■	L	■	S	H	A	C	K	■	■	■
A	■	M	■	E	S	P	■	B	■	A	■	■	■	■
C	O	L	I	C	■	A	■	A	L	I	A	■	■	■
S	■	E	■	I	N	G	L	E	■	L	■	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	H	Y	S	T	E	R	■	E	O	S	I	N	■	■
I	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
H	■	G	R	A	D	U	A	L	■	■	■	■	■	■
B	A	Z	A	A	R	■	C	L	A	I	M	S	■	■
A	■	M	■	E	S	P	■	B	■	A	■	■	■	■
C	O	L	I	C	■	A	■	A	L	I	A	■	■	■
S	■	E	■	I	N	G	L	E	■	L	■	S	■	■

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	G	S
T	E	P	E	E
O	R	A	N	G
M	I	R	I	N
P	A	T	I	O

BULL'S EYE
aide, APPLIED, dell, dial, idea, ideal, idle, laid, lied, paid, pail, pled, plie, plied, pipe, piped, plaid, plied

QUICK

H	O	S	T	■	S	C	U	T	T	L	E	D	■	■
E	■	O	■	S	■	A	■	H	■	E	■	I	■	■
S	C	R	E	E	N	S	■	E	V	A	D	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
I	■	E	■	P	■	K	■	T	■	N	■	D	■	■
T	V	S	E	S	T	■	E	N	A	C	T	S	■	■
A	■	O	■	E	■	T	■	E	■	A	■	■	■	■
T	H	A	T	■	T	E	■	P	A	S	S	E	S	■
E	■	M	■	C	■	B	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
M	A	D	E	T	O	■	S	I	D	H	U	■	■	■
T	R	E	E	D	■	F	O	R	S	A	K	E	■	■
O	■	T	■	N	■	N	■	U	■	R	■	T	■	■
A	■	R	■	E	■	O	■	T	■	E	■	M	■	■
C	A	R	E	W	O	R	N	■	E	S	P	Y	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
5 (4 big and 1 little)

QUOTE UNCODE
I know that I am intelligent, because I know that I know nothing.

SUDOKU

2	1	3	5	6	7	8	9	4
5	6	7	9	4	8	2	3	1
9	4	8	3	1	2	5	7	6
7	2	4	8	5	9	6	1	3
6	8	1	4	7	3	9	5	2
3	9	5	1	2	6	4	8	7
1	7	6	2	8	5	3	4	9
4	5	9	6	3	1	7	2	8
8	3	2	7	9	4	1	6	5

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 3 + 7 + 2 = 16
Medium
9 + 6 − 6 + 2 = 11
Hard
6 + 4 / 2 + 4 = 9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Ed, Bed, Bade, Blade, Fabled, Baffled.

LOOP

KAKURO

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GLA 200	Iridium Silver	1,483	43,22,200	55,500
GLA 200	Cosmos Black	3,666	46,42,126	59,500
GLC300 4M	Obsidian Black	3,266	66,22,551	90,500
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